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(54) **Prosthetic implant element**

(57) An implantable prosthetic element (10) includes a first end plate (12) and a second end plate (14), each of which has a bone-facing surface (42,46) and an opposed mating surface (44,48). The bone-facing surfaces of the first end plate (42) and the second end plate

(46) each have at least one lobe (22,23,24,25) protruding therefrom. Some or all of the lobes (22,23,24,25) may have a plurality of wedge-like fins (18) which protrude therefrom. An elastomeric core (16) is interposed between, and attached to, the mating surfaces (44,48) of the first end plate (12) and the second end plate (14).

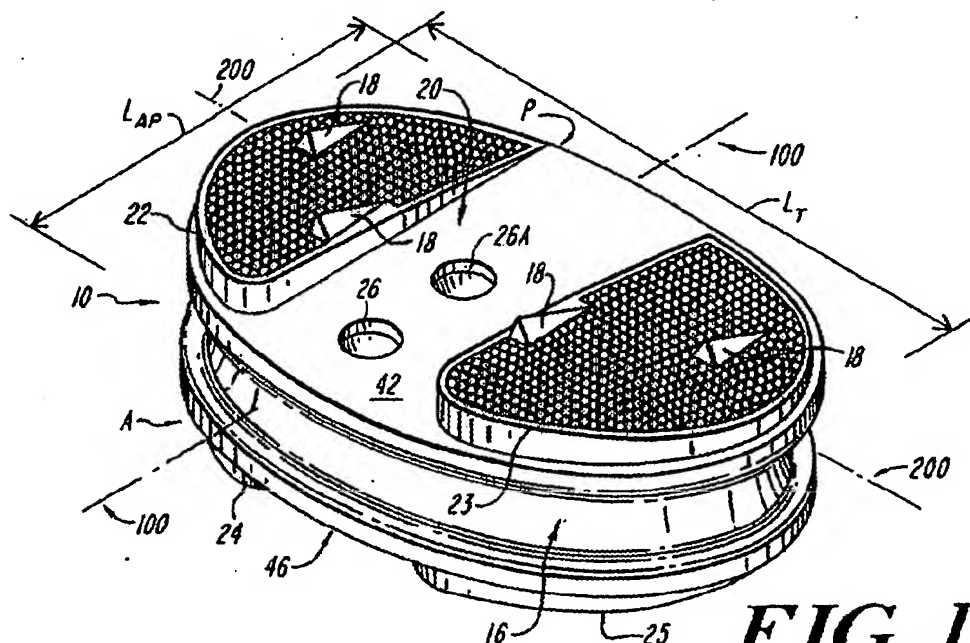


FIG. 1



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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 5 March 2002	Examiner Stach, R
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : technological background Q : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category	



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<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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